



BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

GRAND
MAL

Manga

BUBBLEGUM
CRISIS
2 OF 4

\$2.50 US
\$3.40 CAN



BUBBLEGUM CRISISTM

GRAND MAL

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BACKGROUND:

"MegaTokyo," AD 2031. Six years after the devastating Second Kanto Earthquake, the rebuilt city of Tokyo stands as a symbol of the wealth and power of the commercial behemoth that dominates it, the supranational Genom Corporation.

Genom's best-known products are the "Boomers," biomechanical humanoid constructs combining the power of a mechanized form with some of the intellectual faculties of a human being. Initially developed by the brilliant Dr. Stingray to aid humans in the exploration of space, the Boomers have since been redefined for warfaring roles by Genom (with an eye to the lucrative arms trading).

Disastrous incidents involving rogue Boomers have plagued MegaTokyo for some time, finally leading to the formation of the Armored Defense Police as a response. Though well equipped with an arsenal of helicopter gunships and armored vehicles, the ADPolice have nonetheless had only limited success in dealing with Boomer rampages.

In contrast; a less official (and often more effective) counter to the Boomer threat is offered by a shadowy group known as the Knight Sabers. Sometimes operating as mercenaries, more often as vigilantes, these high-tech commandos use powered-armor "hardsuits" to battle renegade Boomers and similar menaces.

The Knight Sabers' leader is Sylvia Stingray, the daughter of slain Boomer creator Dr. Stingray. Up-and-coming "retrothrash" singer Priss (who bears an extreme hatred of Genom), and fitness instructor Lina Yamazaki provide much of the team's "fighting edge"; the less combat-skilled Nene Romanova serves as the group's computer and electronics expert, in addition to working as a dispatcher for the beleaguered ADPolice. The Sabers are also assisted by Sylvia's younger brother Mackie, who provides technical and engineering support for the team.

THE STORY SO FAR:

Deep within the ruins of one of MegaTokyo's as-yet-unrepaired districts, a Genom-built combat Boomer battles a hive of bizarre-looking mechanical opponents. After seizing a software "memory module" from the mechs, the Boomer evades retaliation and flies off, only to encounter an ADPolice aerial patrol. Before long, ADPolice gunships and their Boomer prey are playing a highly destructive game of Hide-and-Seek across the city, which comes to an end when the Knight Sabers arrive on the scene and easily dispatch the biomechanical marauder. As the Sabers depart from the rooftop battleground, however, they fail to take notice of the "memory module" the Boomer was carrying...

LINNA



PRISS



SYLIA



NENE



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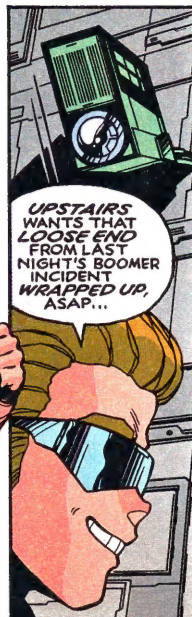
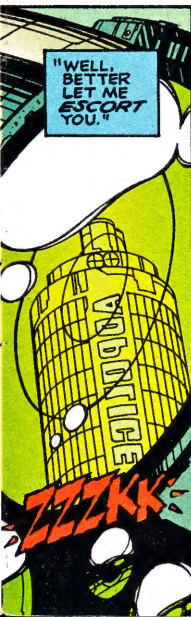
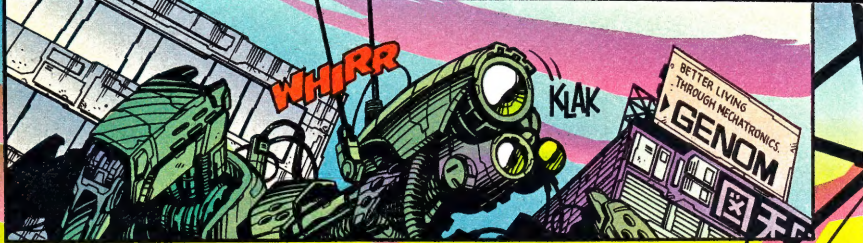
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR JERRY PROSSER

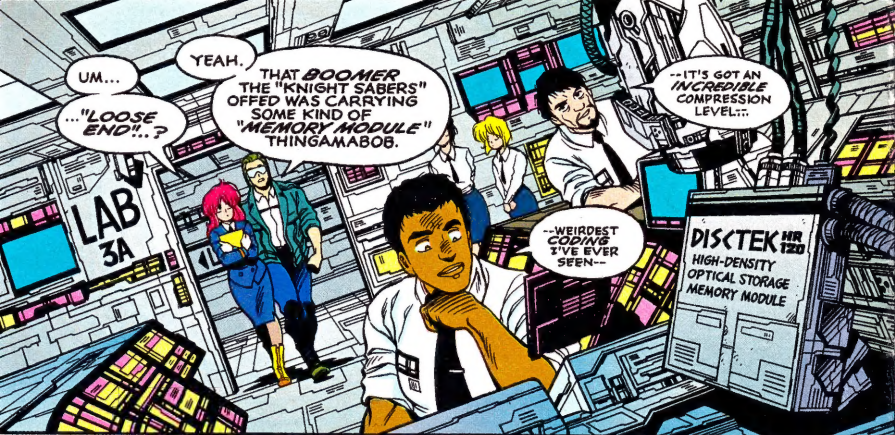
CREATIVE DIRECTOR RANDY STRADLEY

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR BOB SCHRECK

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR RANDY BOWEN







UM...

YEAH.

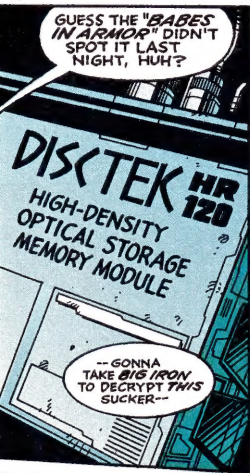
THAT **BOOMER** THE "KNIGHT SABERS" OFFED WAS CARRYING SOME KIND OF "MEMORY MODULE" THINGAMABOB.

--IT'S GOT AN **INCREDIBLE** COMPRESSION LEVEL!--

...**"LOOSE END"**...?

--**WEIRDEST** CODING I'VE EVER SEEN--

DISCTEK HR 120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE



GUESS THE "**BABES IN ARMOR**" DIDN'T SPOT IT LAST NIGHT, HUH?

DISCTEK HR 120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

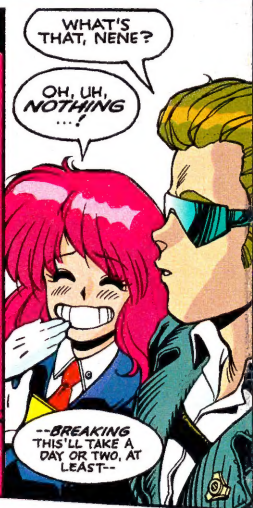
--GONNA TAKE **BIG IRON** TO DECRYPT THIS SUCKER--



OH, **JEES**...!

I DIDN'T NOTICE THE STUPID THING...

BETTER LET **ADMIN** KNOW THE BAD NEWS--



WHAT'S THAT, NENE?

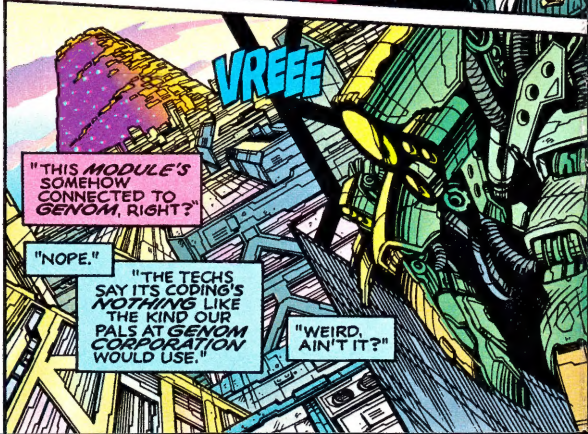
OH, UH, **NOTHING**...

--**BREAKING** THIS'LL TAKE A DAY OR TWO, AT LEAST--



UM... SO...

...SINCE IT WAS RECOVERED FROM A **BOOMER**...



"THIS **MODULE'S** SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO **GENOM**, RIGHT?"

"NOPE."

"THE **TECHS** SAY ITS CODING'S **NOTHING** LIKE THE KIND OUR **PALS AT GENOM CORPORATION** WOULD USE."

"WEIRD. AIN'T IT?"

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"OH, *GENOM TOWER*..."

"...YOU KILO-METER-HIGH *PHALLIC SYMBOL*..."

"LOOMING OVER THE DWARFED SKYLINE OF SO-CALLED 'MEGATOKYO'..."

MY, MY...

...IF IT ISN'T A FELLOW "INTELLECTUAL ASSET..."

"...AS A NONE-TOO-SUBTLE REMINDER OF EXACTLY *WHO* DOMINATES OUR WEAK-WILLED CITY AND NATION... AND *WORLD*..."

—AKIRA SASANISHIKI, "STREET POET"

...FORCED TO GO *SLUMMING* IN THE GRAVITY WELL!

THAT'S AN *APT* AND *INSIGHTFUL* SUMMATION OF MY CURRENT SITUATION, CERTAINLY.

STILL PLAYING WITH *KNIVES*, I SEE...

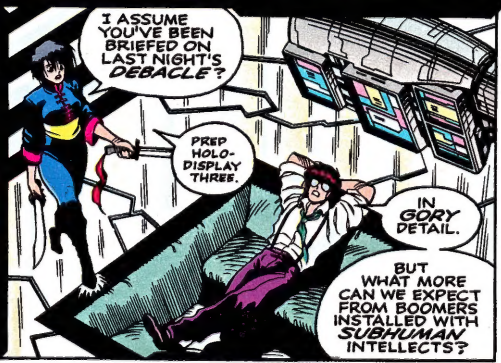
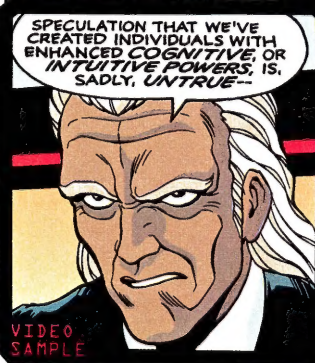
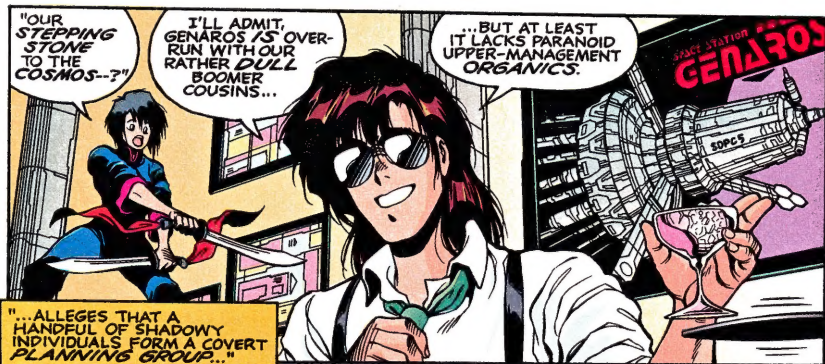
OF COURSE.

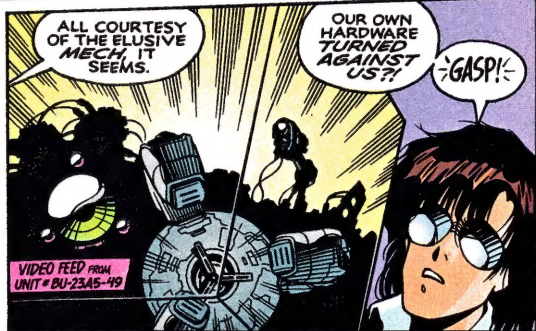
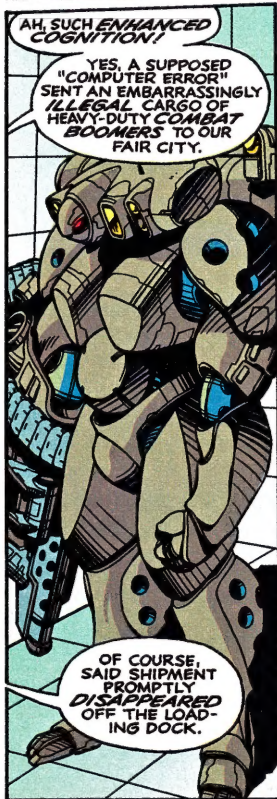
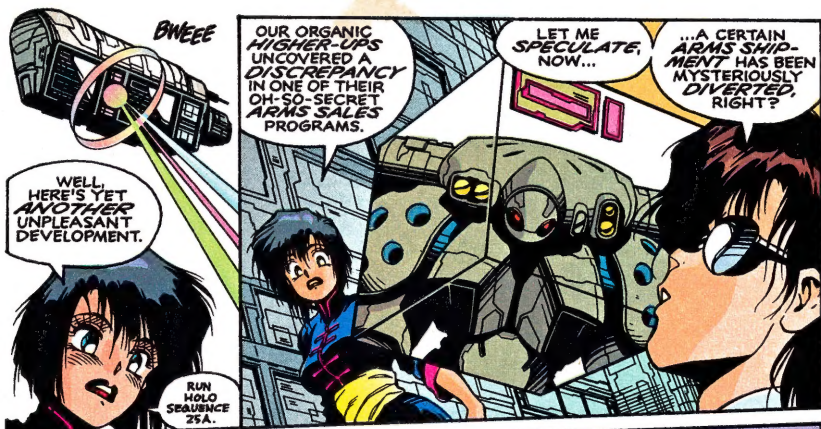
NOTHING EQUALS THE TWO-SWORD FORMS FOR RELAXING THE "SEETHING CAULDRON" OF MY MIND...

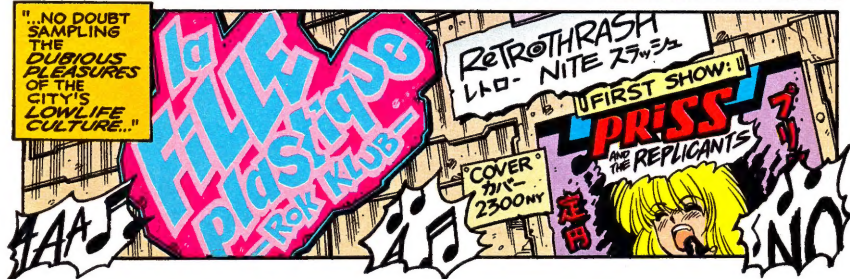
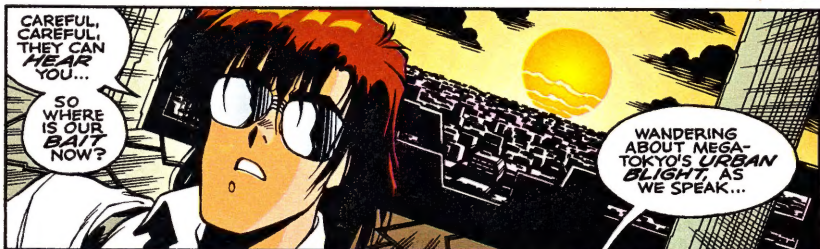
OOH, SEETHING, IS IT?

SO... DID YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY ON GLORIOUS "SPACE ISLAND GENAROS"?

"A FASCINATING RUMOR ABOUT GENOM'S WORLD-WIDE SUCCESS..."





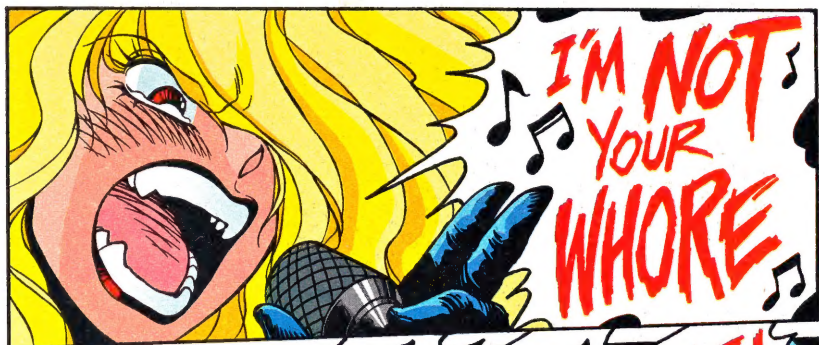


MY
MISSION
IN LIFE--

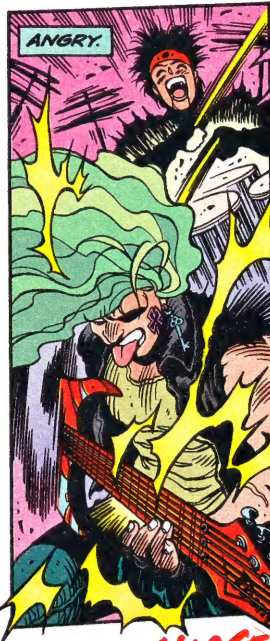
IS TO SEE
YOU
DIE

...BABY.





I'M NOT
YOUR
WHORE



ANGRY.



FRENZIED.



INCOHERENT.



"RETROTHRASH"
IS MY KIND OF
LAME MUSIC.

I'M YOUR NOOSE
--YOUR RAZOR
BLADE--
--YOUR LETHAL
INJECTION--



NEVER COULD
STOMACH
THE PRISSY
SO-CALLED
"MUSIC"
OF THOSE
MINIMONO
POSEURS...

...OR EVEN THE
FAUVISTS,
WITH THEIR
TRENDY
AUGMENTED
VOCAL CORDS...

...BUT RETROTHRASH
I CAN DEAL WITH, AS LONG
AS IT'S LOUD, FAST,
AND LAUGHABLE.



NOW, THIS BAND'S GOT THE
PERIOD INSTRUMENTA-
TION DOWN...

...AND THE LEAD
SINGER'S NOT
AFRAID TO SPORT
THOSE OUTRE
PERIOD OUTFITS.

HER VOCALS
AREN'T BAD,
EITHER.

VIDEO SAMPLE

--BACK TO YOUR
POLITICAL
VIEWS, PRISS.

NOW,
EXACTLY WHAT
"SERIOUS
STATEMENT"
ARE YOU MAKING
WITH THAT SILLY
BLONDE WIG
AND ANIMAL
LEATHER MINI-
SKIRT?

THE
STATE-
MENT
IS THIS--

--BLEEP!
OFF,
JERK--

SHE SOUNDS LIKE ME
AS A TEENAGER...

YOUNG...
ANGRY...
UTTERLY
WITHOUT
A CLUE.

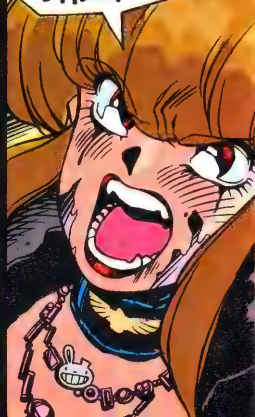


YOU'LL NEVER
CONTROL
MEEEE

VIDEO SAMPLE

--DAMN RIGHT--

I'M NOT LIKE
THE REST OF YOU
SHEEP--



QUIXOTE
IN A
MINISKIRT.

I PARTICULARLY
LIKE THE
SEARING
POLITICAL
INSIGHTS OF
HER LYRICS...

--C'MON--

--SAY IT!

"GENOM SUCKS!"

I
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU--

HMMF.

SO
THIS IS
SYLIA'S NEWEST
ACQUISITION.

VERY
DYNAMIC
ARCHITECTURE...!
->SNORT<

AND NOT
IN A VERY
FASHIONABLE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD,
EITHER...!

OH
WELL.

UM...
HELLO?

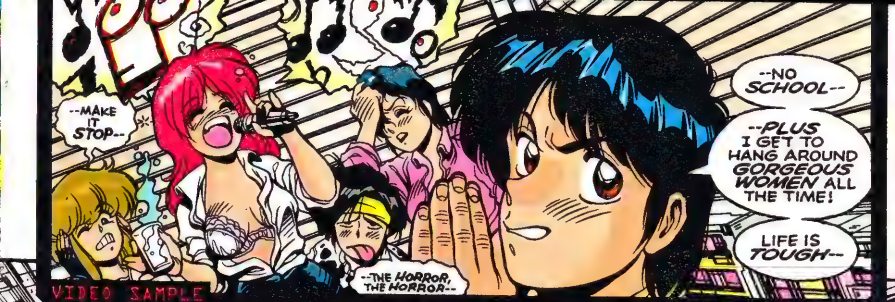
SYLIA?
ANYBODY
HOME?

SKAK!

HELLO,
MACKIE...!

OH,
UH...
HI!

COME
ON IN,
NENE!



--MAKE IT STOP--

--NO SCHOOL--

--PLUS I GET TO HANG AROUND GORGEOUS WOMEN ALL THE TIME!

LIFE IS TOUGH--

--THE HORROR, THE HORROR--

VIDEO SAMPLE

POOR MACKIE...

UH, MORE OR LESS...

...SLAVING AWAY DOWN HERE IN THE DUNGEON ALL DAY...!

HEY, CHECK IT OUT... SYLIA'S HAD ME WORKING ON SOMETHING NEW AND FUNKY!

SAY, "HI!" BOY!



'S A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS FLIGHT-CAPABLE SUPPORT MECH...

GYEEK--!



...A NEW TOY FOR YOU GUYS TO PLAY WITH!

I'LL STICK TO STUFFED ANIMALS, THANKS...



SYLIA CALLS IT A 'MOTOROID'...

...BUT PRISS PREFERS "MOTORSLAVE."

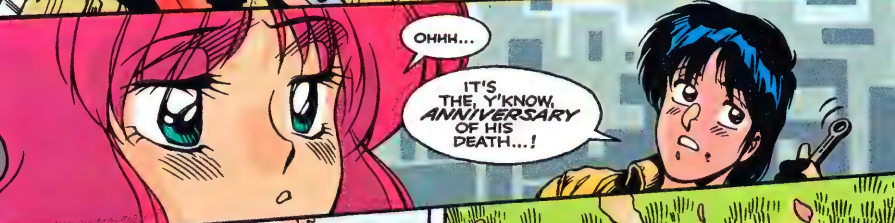
SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT AVER, I GUESS.



THAT'S FOR SURE...

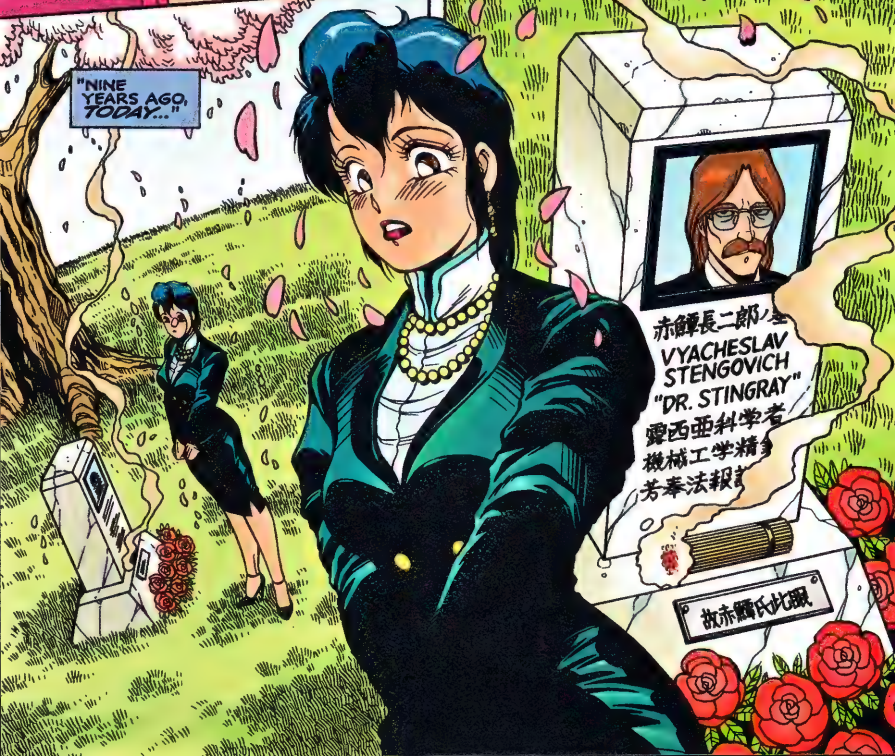
UM... SO... WHERE'S YOUR SISTER? I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS FOR HER...

OOPS... SORRY, SYLIA'S, UH, "VISITING" DAD RIGHT NOW.



OH... OH...

IT'S THE, Y'KNOW, ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH...!



"NINE YEARS AGO, TODAY..."

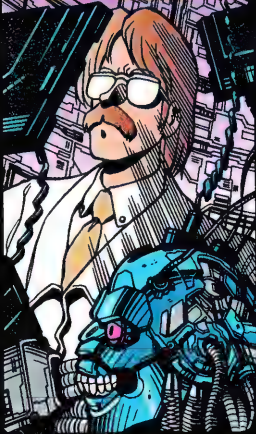
赤罈長二郎
VYACHESLAV STENGOVICH
"DR. STINGRAY"
露西亞科學者
機械工學精
芳奉法報

故赤罈氏此眠

VIDEO SAMPLE

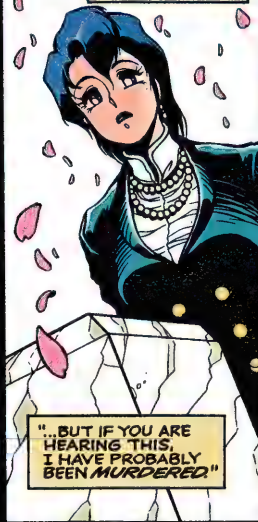
--PERHAPS THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT
ASPECT OF DR.
STINGRAY'S RESEARCH--

--WAS HIS DEVELOPMENT
OF THE BOOMERS' FORM
OF **ARTIFICIAL**
INTELLIGENCE--



"SYLIA.

"PLEASE
PARDON THE
MELODRAMA...



"...BUT IF YOU ARE
HEARING THIS,
I HAVE PROBABLY
BEEN **MURDERED**."

VIDEO SAMPLE

--WITH A RESULT
CLOSELY ANALO-
GOUS TO HUMAN
CONSCIOUSNESS.

EXACTLY **HOW**
THIS WAS ACHIEVED
REMAINS GENOM'S
TRADE SECRET.



"I MUST LEAVE **SOME**
COUNTER TO GENOM'S
CERTAIN **ABUSE**
OF MY WORK.

"YOU WILL BE
THAT COUNTER,
SYLIA."



--OF COURSE, WE
ARE **FOREVER**
INDEBTED TO THE
BRILLIANT WORK OF
THE LATE **DR.**
STINGRAY.

WITHOUT
HIS IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTIONS,
GENOM CORPORATION
MIGHT NEVER
HAVE--

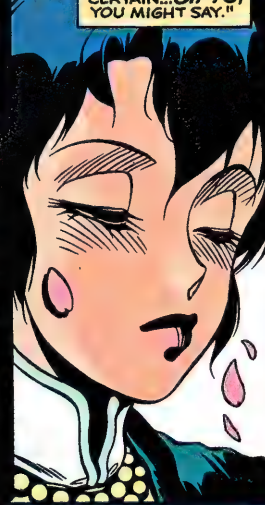


GENOM EXECUTIVE
BOARD CHAIRMAN
QUINCY

VIDEO SAMPLE

"TO
AID
YOU IN
THIS...

"...I HAVE
GIVEN YOU
AND YOUR
BROTHER
CERTAIN...**GIFTS**,
YOU MIGHT SAY."



LET ME
ADD...

...DR. STINGRAY
WAS **ALSO** A
CLOSE PERSONAL
FRIEND... **CHOKE**

VIDEO
SAMPLE

"...AND, IN
THE EVENT,
THAT, AH,
DIRECT
ACTION
AGAINST
GENOM IS
REQUIRED..."

"...I'VE ALSO LEFT
YOU TECHNICAL
INFORMATION
REGARDING A
PROMISING TYPE
OF **COMBAT**
ARMOR I'VE BEEN
DEVELOPING..."

VIDEO
SAMPLE

EVEN MORE
ENIGMATIC
THAN THE
MOTIVES
OF MEGA-
TOKYO'S
"KNIGHT
SABERS"...

-- ARE THE ORIGINS OF THE
VIGILANTES' UNPRECEDENT-
ED **POWERED ARMOR**

VIDEO SAMPLE

NUMEROUS CONSPIRACY
THEORIES HAVE
ARISEN TO
EXPLAIN THE
PRESENCE OF
THE "KNIGHT
SABERS"...

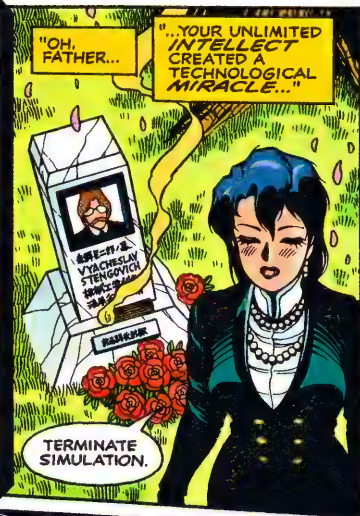
--AND WHY
THEY HOLD
SUCH AN
OBVIOUS
GRUDGE
AGAINST
GENOM--



--THE "KNIGHT SABERS"
ARE NOTHING MORE
THAN **TERRORISTS**,
CRIMINALS WHO
DESERVE TO BE--

差

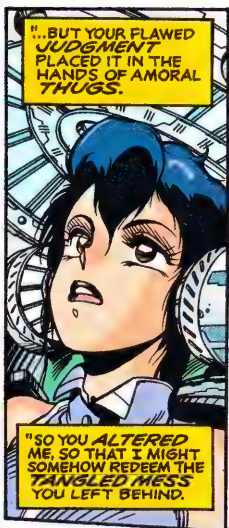
VIDEO
SAMPLE



"OH,
FATHER..."

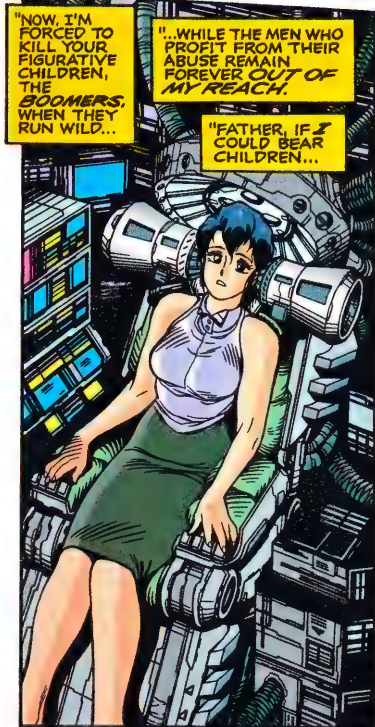
"...YOUR UNLIMITED
INTELLECT
CREATED A
TECHNOLOGICAL
MIRACLE..."

TERMINATE
SIMULATION.



"...BUT YOUR FLAWED
JUDGMENT
PLACED IT IN THE
HANDS OF AMORAL
THUGS.

"SO YOU **ALTERED**
ME, SO THAT I MIGHT
SOMEHOW REDEEM THE
TANGLED MESS
YOU LEFT BEHIND.



"NOW, I'M
FORCED TO
KILL YOUR
FIGURATIVE
CHILDREN,
THE
BOOMERS,
WHEN THEY
RUN WILD..."

"...WHILE THE MEN WHO
PROFIT FROM THEIR
ABUSE REMAIN
FOREVER **OUT OF**
MY REACH.

"FATHER, IF I
COULD BEAR
CHILDREN..."



"...I'D WANT TO
LEAVE THEM A
LESS **HOPELESS**
AND **AGONIZING**
LEGACY THAN THE
ONE YOU LEFT ME."

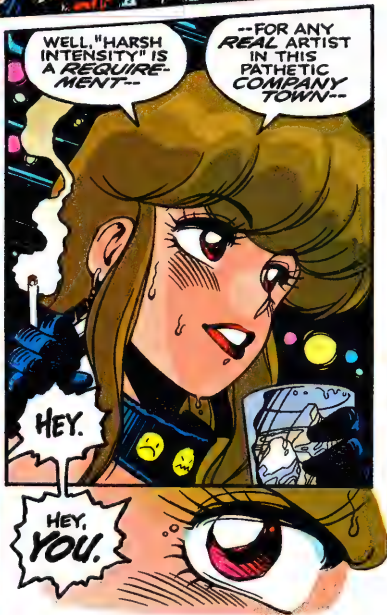
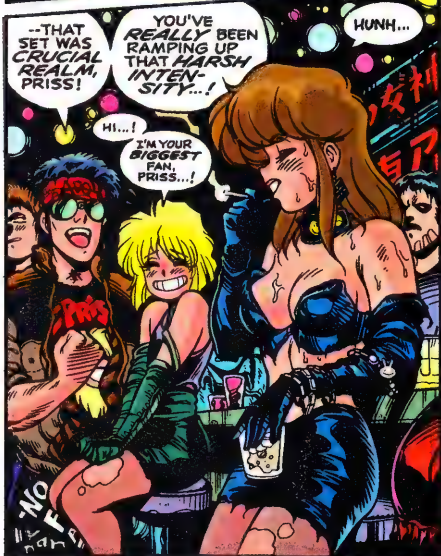
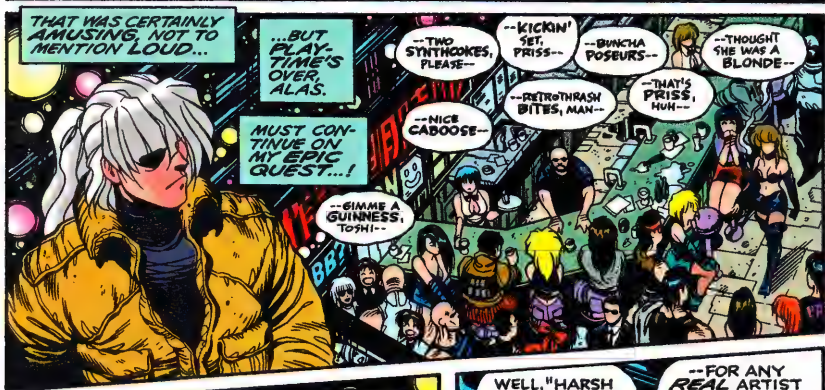
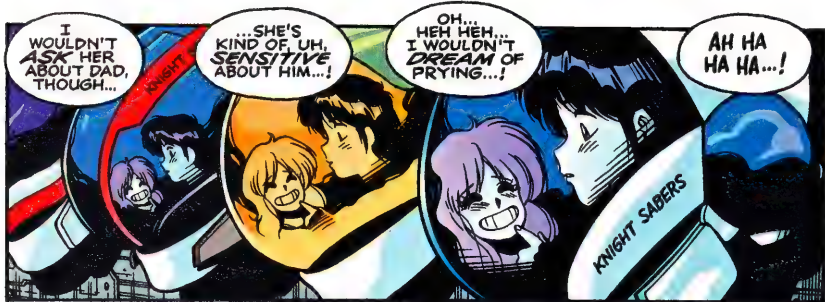
--EXCERPTS FROM
SYLIA STINGRAY'S
PRIVATE RECORDS.



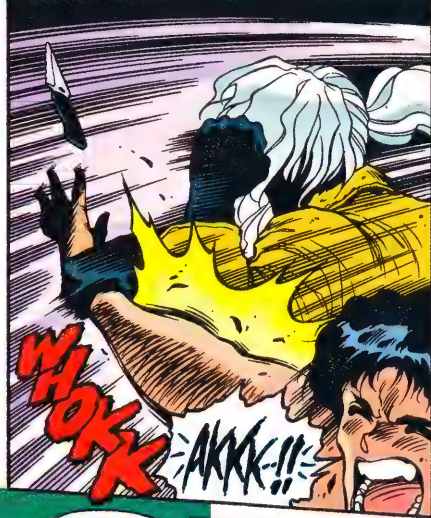
WELL, SYLIA
DOES
SEEM TO
HAVE MIXED
FEELINGS
ABOUT
DAD.

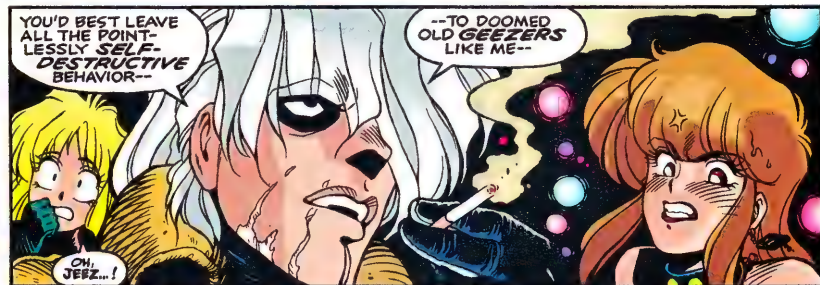
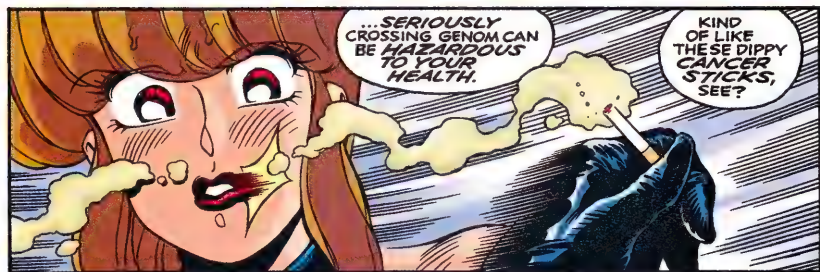
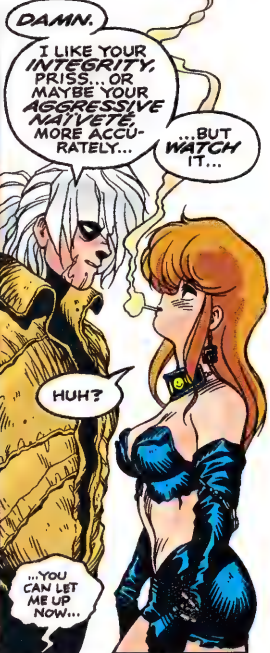
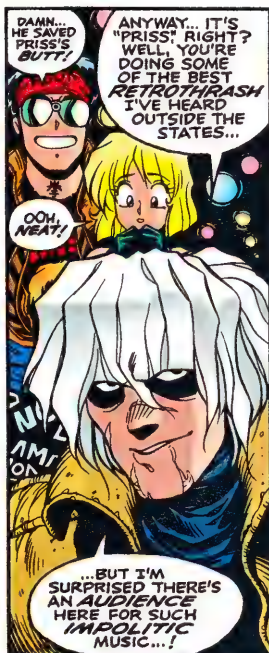
NOT
THAT
I KNOW
WHY...

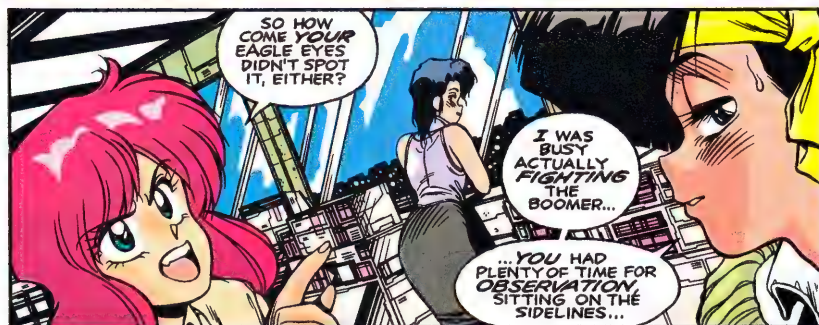
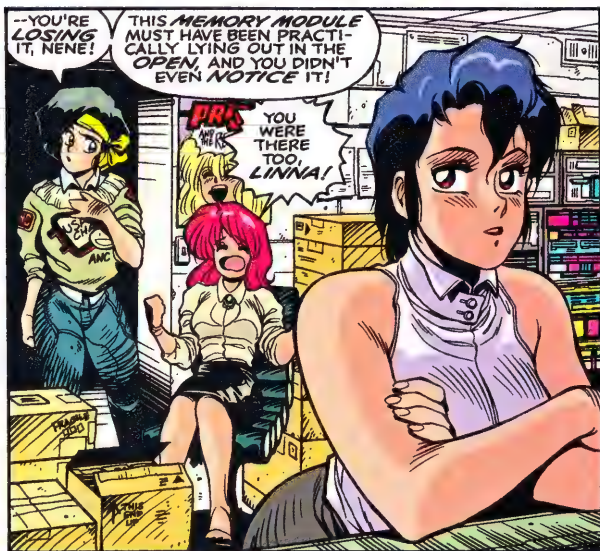
HMMM...
I
WONDER
WHAT--





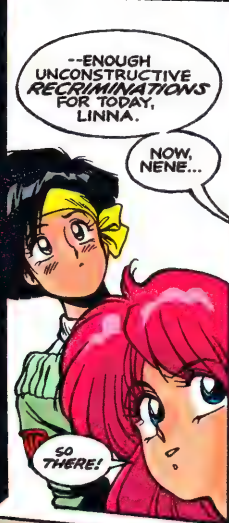








HA!
I
CONTRIBUTE
TO THE KNIGHT
SABERS WITH
MY **GOOD
LOOKS AND
AMAZING
BRAIN!**



--ENOUGH
UNCONSTRUCTIVE
RECRIMINATIONS
FOR TODAY,
LINNA.

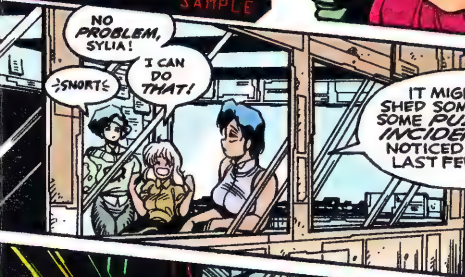
NOW,
NENE...

SO
THERE!



...AS
SOON AS YOU
CAN MANAGE
IT...

...I'LL NEED
TO SEE A COPY OF
THE ADPOLICE'S
ANALYSIS OF
THIS MODULE'S
CONTENTS.



NO
PROBLEM,
SYLIA!

I CAN
DO
THAT!

--SNORTS--

IT MIGHT JUST
SHED SOME LIGHT ON
SOME **PUZZLING
INCIDENTS** I'VE
NOTICED OVER THE
LAST FEW MONTHS--



DAMN IT--



--ANOTHER
SEIZURE
STARTING,
SO SOON
AFTER THE
LAST ONE--!

TOO
SOON--



--BUT
IT **IS** IRONIC,
WHEN YOU
CONSIDER HOW
VASHNEVSKAYA
ACQUIRED HIS
PARTICULAR CON-
DITION--!

--GOT TO GET
AWAY FROM ANY
POTENTIAL
VICTIMS--



SOME-
THING
IN MY
MOUTH--?

GUGHK!
PPOO=

SEVERED
FINGERS.

NOT MINE.
THIS TIME...

THEY'RE
BOTH DEAD...
MANGLED...

THANK YOU,
GENOM.

"AGGRESSIVE
NAIVETE"
HUH?

POMPOUS
ASS...!

HUNH.

"POINTLESSLY
SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
BEHAVIOR"--

THE BASTARDS
COULDN'T SEE
FIT TO KILL ME
OUTRIGHT.
COULD THEY--

--IS
TALKING
TO ME LIKE
THAT--!



WHAT?

IT'S
STARTING
AGAIN?

MESSING WITH
GENOM'S BAD
FOR YOUR
HEALTH,
IS IT?

LIKE
HE KNOWS
ANYTHING
ABOUT
IT!



--NO--

--THIS ISN'T
ANOTHER
HALLUCINATION--

--THIS
IS
REAL--

UCHHKK

VRRR

KCHAK



WELL,
MR. "WHITE
KNIGHT"--

--HERE'S
TO YOUR
HEALTH--!

TO BE
CONTINUED...

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